

Oratorio of Hope: For Us and We

Teaching guidance

Thank you for choosing to be part of our Oratorio of Hope children's chorus. We are excited about what this piece will mean for our community in Croydon; and we are so glad to have you on board to help us deliver what we know will be an important and memorable event.

Please find below some guidance which may be helpful for learning 'For Us and We'.

You can find all the relevant resources on our webpage:

londonmozartplayers.com/oratorio-of-hope

In the first session

In your first learning session, listen to the song with the **teaching track** all the way through (maybe even more than once!) Students may like to follow along with the **lyric sheets** – it might be a good idea to have this projected on the wall or printed out in advance.

Make sure to tell students in the first session that they need to learn the words by heart, so they know what is expected. You may like to also talk about the final concert – there will be a professional symphony orchestra and over 200 singers performing together for this song, with exciting lighting and (hopefully!) a fantastic audience.

Teaching the song

Taking each line at a time, sing one line to the class and ask them to sing it back to you. Once the class is confident at each line, add the lines together gradually until they can sing the complete verse.

Regularly listen and sing along with the teaching track so your students are familiar with how the accompaniment sounds.

Repeat this process with each section until you have covered the entire song. A lot of the words and music are repeated, so once you've learnt the first verse and chorus you've already covered a lot! We recommend only covering one or two verses per session and then singing them through multiple times.

It's worth remembering that the very first verse is exposed, so we recommend practising this one the most!

Learning by heart

Once the whole song is learnt, the next step is to take away the lyric sheets and try singing for memory. Repetition is key for this, and it's ok if it's not perfect straight away! It may be helpful to speak through the words at the start of every session as a way of building memory.

Additional notes

All of the harmony lines are optional for if you're feeling extra confident and adventurous. If you are more comfortable repeating the main tune when it divides into parts that is great. If you'd like to have a go at the harmonies, please note that the top lines are mostly for confident high voices.

At Bar 160 (c. 02:40 in the track), don't panic! Even though the rhythm looks tricky, it's quite natural once you've heard it. We recommend listening to this with the class as an isolated section a few times before singing it together. This may be a section that you'd like to practice with the track as the rhythm in the piano is helpful and supportive.

Homework

Where possible, please distribute lyric sheets to each student and send the track to parents and carers so they can practise at home. This is very helpful as it reinforces what they have learnt during the sessions!